

KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

86

R E P O R T S

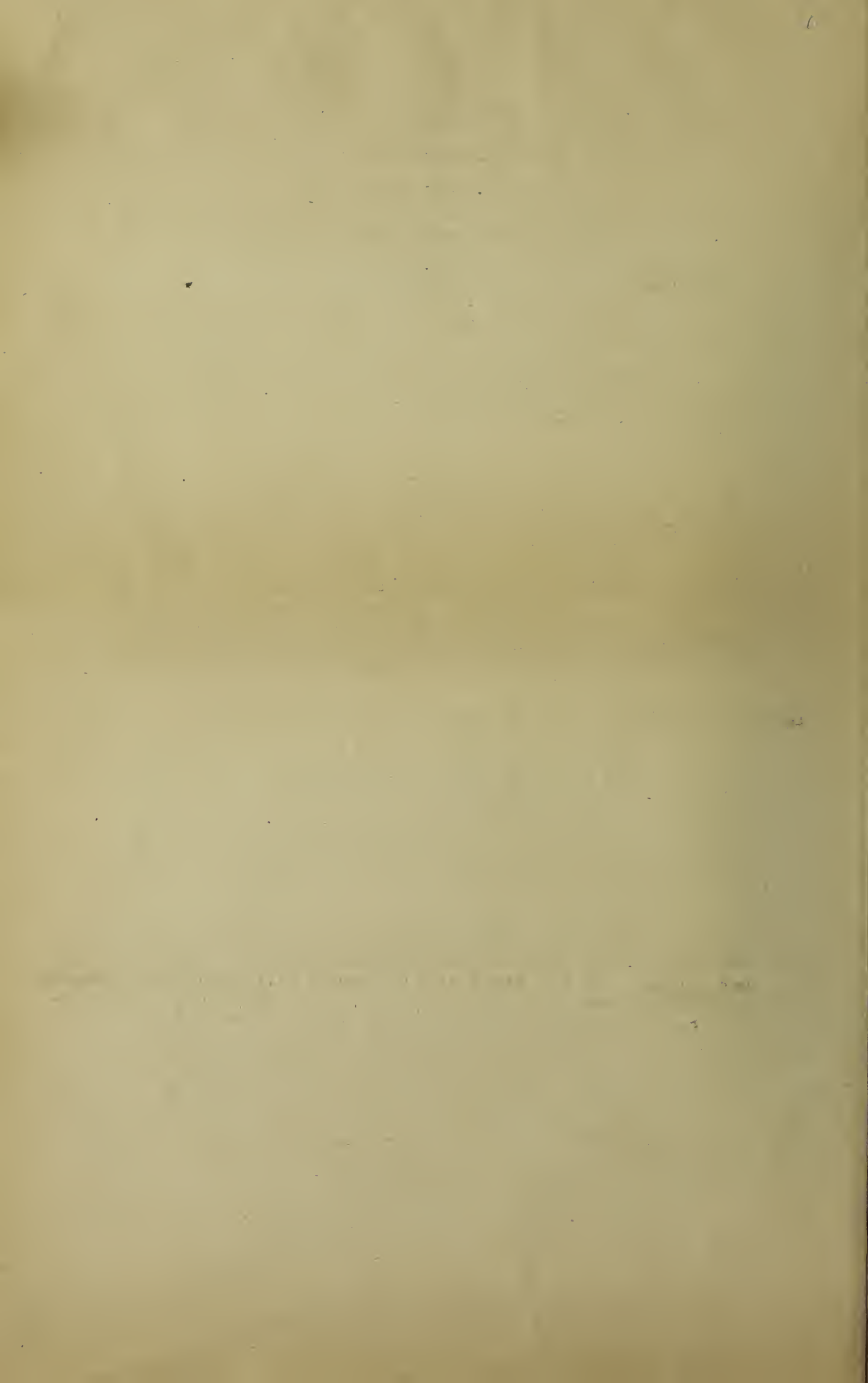
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

for the YEAR 1920.



ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH of the
KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL of the SANITARY STATE
of the DISTRICT for the YEAR 1920.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920.

The estimated population of this district for 1920 is 15,807; the last census return, namely for 1911, gave the population as 12,705, the estimated increase, therefore, being 3,102.

The District comprises 1,555 acres, and extends from North to South under 2 miles, and from East to West about 3 miles, and lies between the City of Bristol on one side, and the Warmley Rural area on the other. The surface of the land is extremely undulating in character, the highest point being 373 feet above sea level, while the lowest part of the district reaches the River Avon at Conham.

The area is almost wholly industrial in character, the great bulk of the population being engaged in boot-making, coal-mining, and corset-making, and motor cycle manufacture.

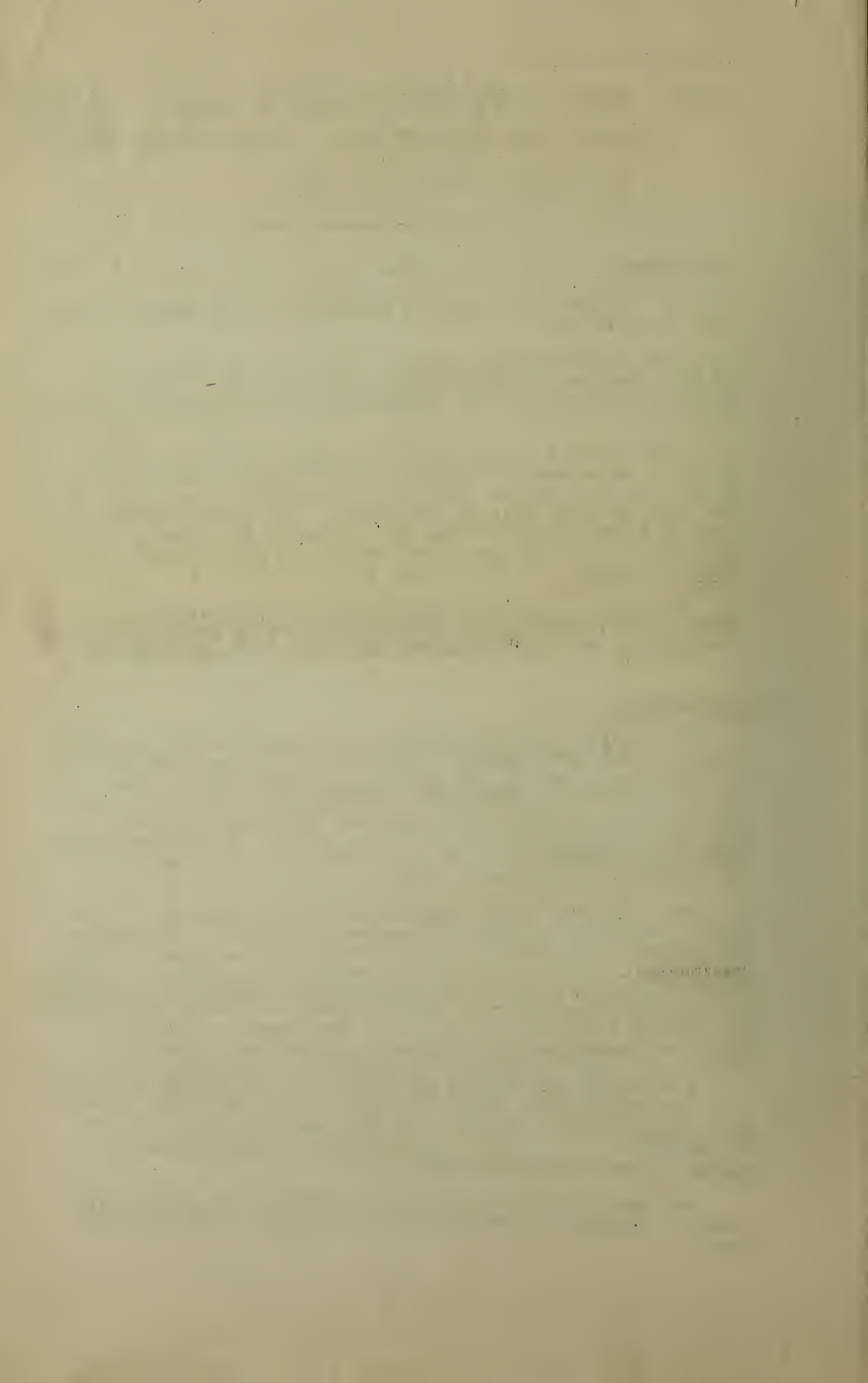
VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 319, 152 males and 167 females. There were 4 illegitimate births - 1 male and 3 female, and there was 1 twin birth. The Birth Rate for the year is 20.1 per 1,000. This is a satisfactory birth-rate for this area, and compares favourably with last year's figure of 13.1 per 1,000. The birthrate for England and Wales during the same period was 25.4 per 1,000, the highest recorded since 1909.

The number of deaths registered in 1902 was 102. There were in addition to this 23 transferable deaths. Excluding the latter, the death-rate works out at the low figure of 6.4 per 1,000. If the transferable deaths (e.g. deaths of persons belonging to the district in Institutions outside the district) are included the figure is 7.8 per 1,000 - a very low figure, and I think I am correct in stating the lowest of any year since the formation of the Council. The death-rate for England and Wales during the same period was 12.4 per 1,000.

A detailed list of the several causes of death are given in an appended table, but it may be remarked here that the main causes were as follows: heart disease of various forms accounting for 17 deaths, Senile decay 14, bronchitis 13, cancer 13, and pulmonary tuberculosis 10.

As regards the ages at death, roughly 1/3rd of the total number of deaths occurred in the age period of 65 years and over.



INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In another table is given a detailed list of the causes of deaths under 1 year. The total number of these deaths was 16, and more than one-half of that number was due to bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia.

The infantile mortality is 50.16 per 1,000 births registered. This is a most satisfactory figure and the lowest on record for a number of years. It has stood as high as 140 per 1,000 of registered births. There has been in the last few years a marked improvement in the infantile death-rate, due, in no small measure, to the increased knowledge of and care for the welfare of infants.

WATER.

The supply of water which is provided by the West Gloucester Water Company was adequate in quantity and good in quality. There was no shortage even in the highest portions of the district. There were 4 houses connected with the Company's mains during the year.

The rainfall for the year was about the average for the last 34 years, just under 33 inches.

RIVERS AND STREAM.

The Syston Brook was subject to pollution from an overflow of Sewage from adjoining District. This has now been remedied.

DRAINAGE and SEWAGE.

The Sewage systems are treated at the outfall works.

Up to the present the Sewage System is adequate.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the majority of cases they are Water Closets, especially in the more congested areas.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by the Council one day each week in three separate areas.

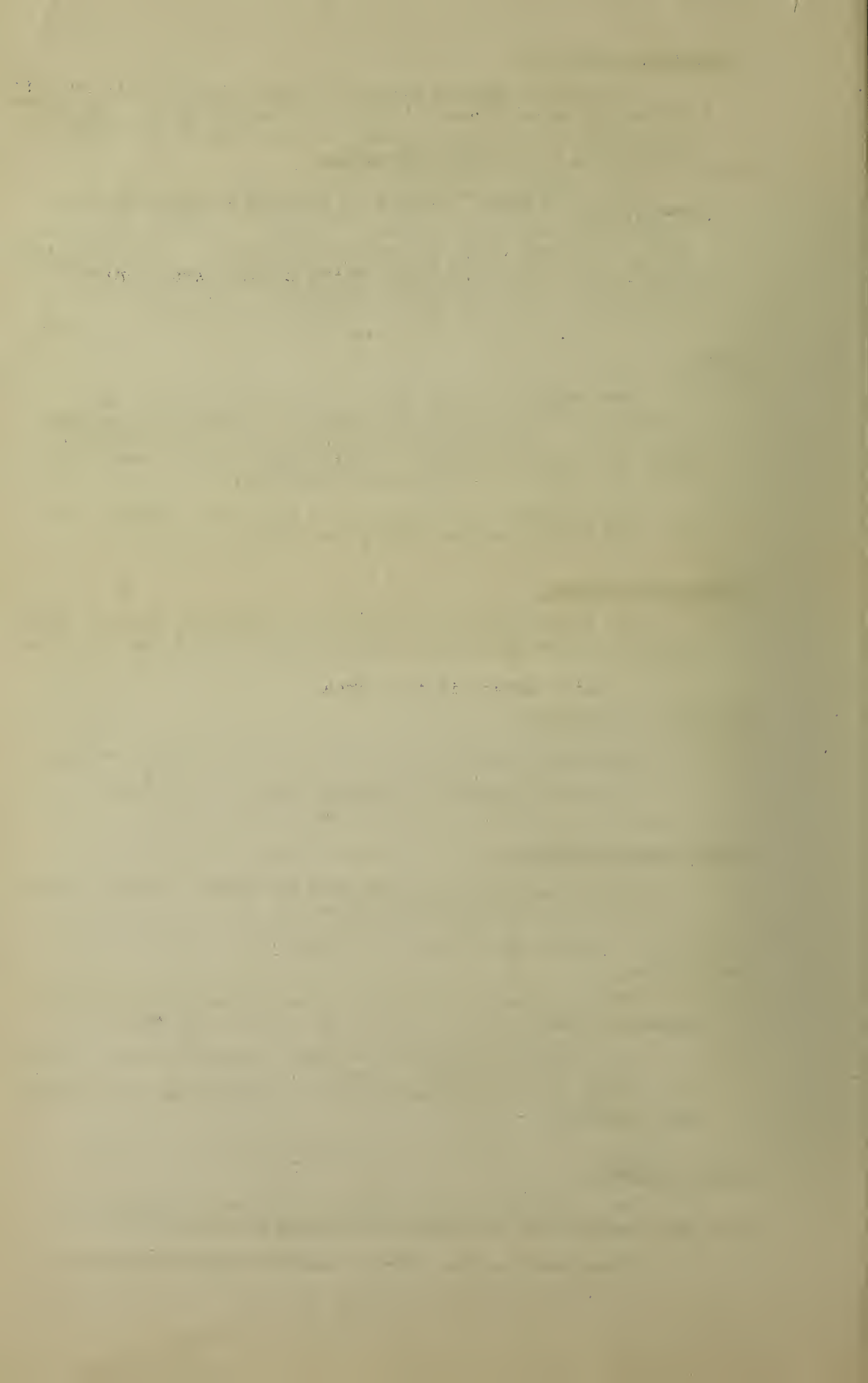
The area of collection has been extended during the year.

There are no arrangements for cleaning ashpits, privies and cesspools.

FOOD - MEAT.

We do not possess an abattoir, the only arrangements are Inspections conducted by the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no case of Diseased Meat brought to



notice.

The Slaughter Houses are kept clean, but most are not of a modern construction.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

There is a great shortage of housing accommodation in the District.

The measures taken to meet the shortage : The Council are building 1,200 houses (under the Housing Act), which include in the Hanham area 69, Kingswood 131.

There has been no change in the population and no fresh Industry started.

Overcrowding.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding, though not so bad as one would expect; the chief cause being that whereas one family lived in a house, now there are two - the second family being chiefly young married couples with one or no child.

As regards measures to be taken, the only remedy is the building of new houses.

Unhealthy areas.

None.

No lodging houses in this area.

ADOPTED ACTS.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part III.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Part II.

Part III.

Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 68 of Part IV.

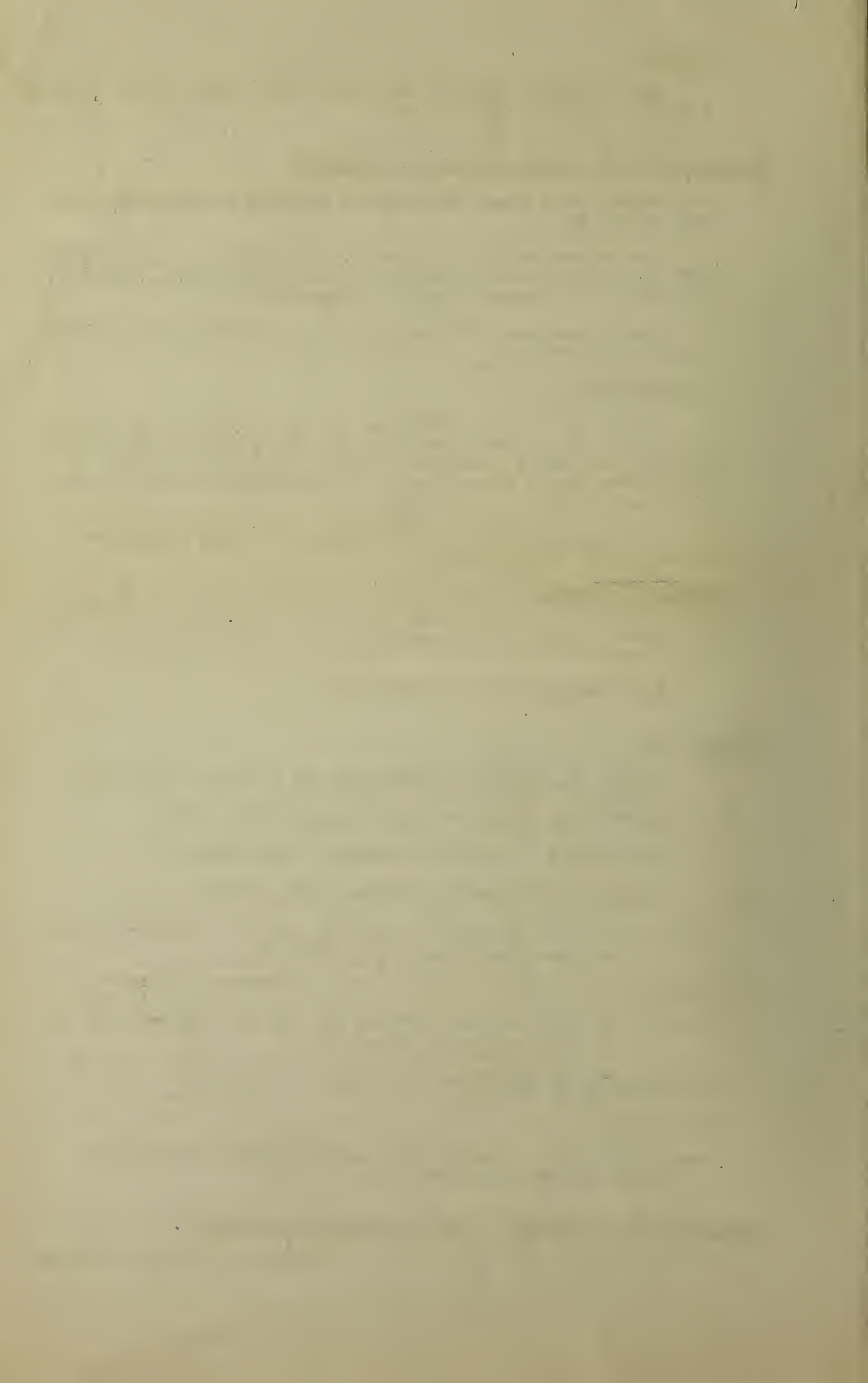
Sections 81, 85 and 86 of Part VII.

Part VIII.

Jan. 31st, 1912. Regulations adopted under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As regards the prevalence of infectious diseases during



the year, I am glad to report there has been no epidemic of serious dimensions. Scarlet Fever stands highest in the list with a total of 19. There were no fatal cases, and the occurrence of the disease was of a sporadic character - the cases occurring in various parts of the district and being spread throughout the year. Next to Scarlet Fever is Ophthalmia Neonatorum with a total of 9. Nearly all of these occurred in the Hanham portion of the district. The Ophthalmia cases also manifested themselves in the latter part of the year. Six out of the nine cases received institutional treatment - home treatment being difficult to carry out efficiently. No loss of sight resulted from the disease. There were 5 cases of Diphtheria - of which 1 only was removed to hospital, where it succumbed. This was the only death. Antitoxin was generally used, the supply being obtained at the Council's expense. Swabs of the cases and of contacts were examined at the Bristol University Laboratory. In all cases of infectious disease, where home treatment is not deemed advisable through overcrowding, etc., they are dealt with institutionally.

Vaccination. The district, I regret to report, is notorious for its objection to primary vaccination. In at least 80 per cent. a conscientious objection certificate is produced, and in consequence the unprotected population is rapidly on the increase. Revaccinations have been done only in cases of persons joining the Services or going abroad.

Measles. There has been no serious epidemic of this fever, but not being notifiable no statistics are available of its extent. In September and October, however, there was a slight outbreak in the Kingswood High Street Infant School, which necessitated closure of the School for a fortnight.

Tuberculosis.

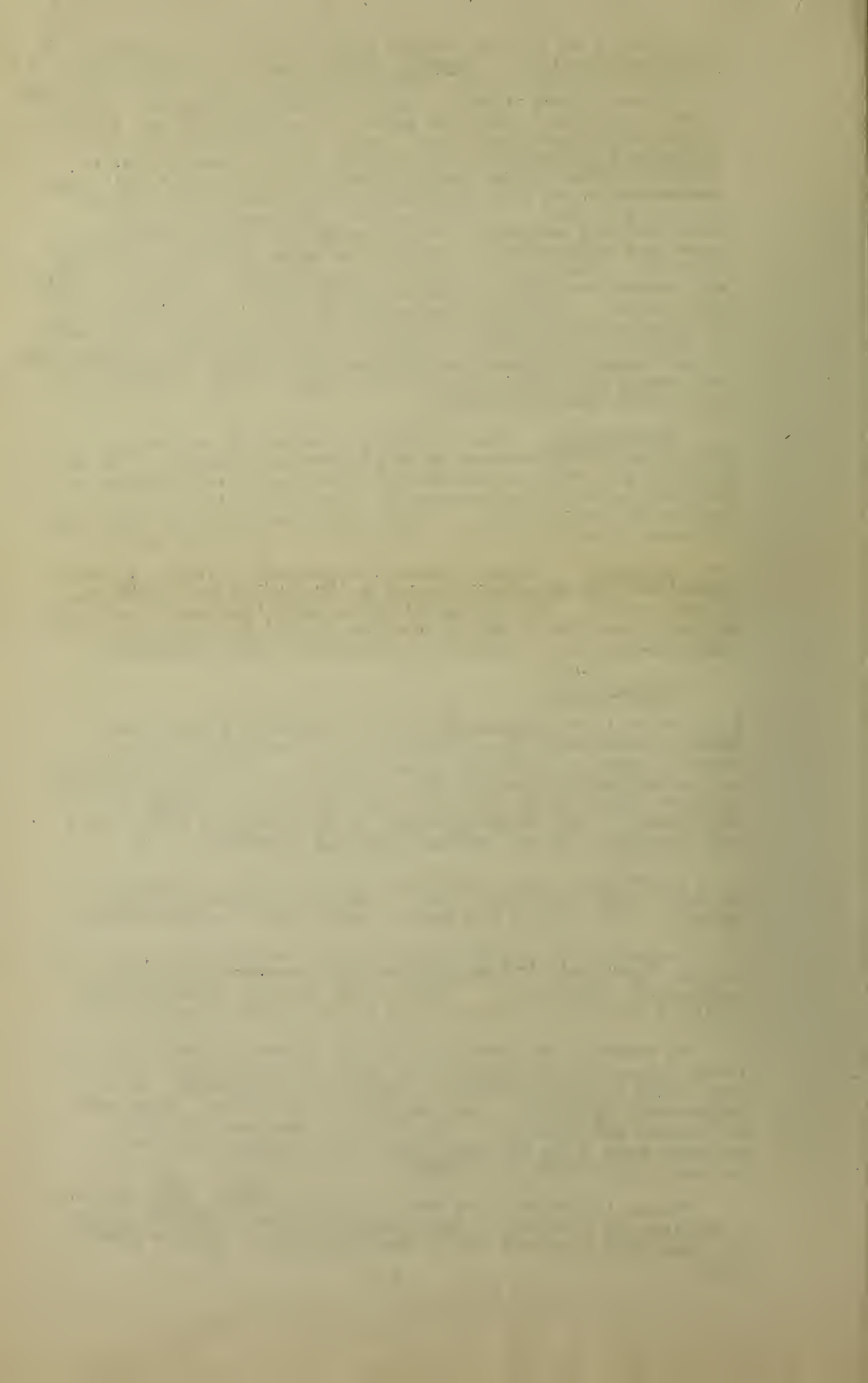
(i) There is no dispensary in the district, but in the Warmley area there is a dispensary at the Council Offices, which is open on Fridays for all cases. Dr. Arnott Dickson is the Medical Officer and Dr. Todhunter is assistant Medical Officer; these being the T.B. officers for the County of Gloucester. For Surgical cases of Tuberculosis there are 2 beds available at the Cosham Memorial Hospital.

(ii) In certain cases - mostly ex-service men - extra diet is provided from the County fund. Many of the cases obtain extras - such as milk and meat - under Poor Law Regulations.

(iii) Owing to the overcrowding due to the scarcity of houses, isolation of tuberculous cases presents an almost insuperable difficulty. This is met to some extent by the offer of shelters, but the offer is not taken advantage of.

As regards the prevalence of the disease, there were 19 fresh cases notified during the year. Of this number 16 were cases of lung infection, and in the remaining 3 other organs were infected. As regards sex incidence, there were 10 females and 9 males. The chief occupations of these patients were 6 in the boot trade and 4 engaged in home duties: 3 were school children.

During the year there were 10 deaths due to this disease, 6 females and 4 males. The pulmonary cases numbered 9, and the remaining case was one of meningitis in a child 4 months old.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Kingswood Infant Welfare Centre has now completed its fifth year, and it is pleasing to record a year even more successful than its predecessors, the statistics shewing a considerable increase, proving how urgent is the need of Infant Welfare Centres, as those who work among mothers and babies know.

Mothers can bring their babies and toddlers up to five years of age to the Kingswood Centre.

- (1) Have them weighed regularly.
- (2) Consult the doctor.
- (3) Receive instruction from experienced fully qualified nurses and midwives on the care of her own health and her unborn child, and afterwards on the care and management of the child.
- (4) Attend ante-natal and other lectures relating to health given at the Centre; also classes for sewing and cooking.

The Medical Officer of Health is the Welfare's doctor; he examines every child brought to the Centre for the first time, and at frequent intervals afterwards. When medical treatment is necessary, he tells the Mother to consult a Doctor. The Infant Welfare and Mothers' School is an institution where advice is given on the upbringing and general health of every child attending, and a record is kept accordingly.

The doctor attends regularly, having made 39 attendances out of a possible 42. When unavoidably absent he sends a qualified substitute.

After the child's entry on the Register of the Welfare Centre the Matron of the Kingswood Nurses' home (who works at the Centre every week) visits the mother at her home to help and encourage her to carry out the instruction she receives at the Centre.

The Welfare was visited by one of H.M. Inspectors in March; afterwards a letter was received, the following being a copy of the same :

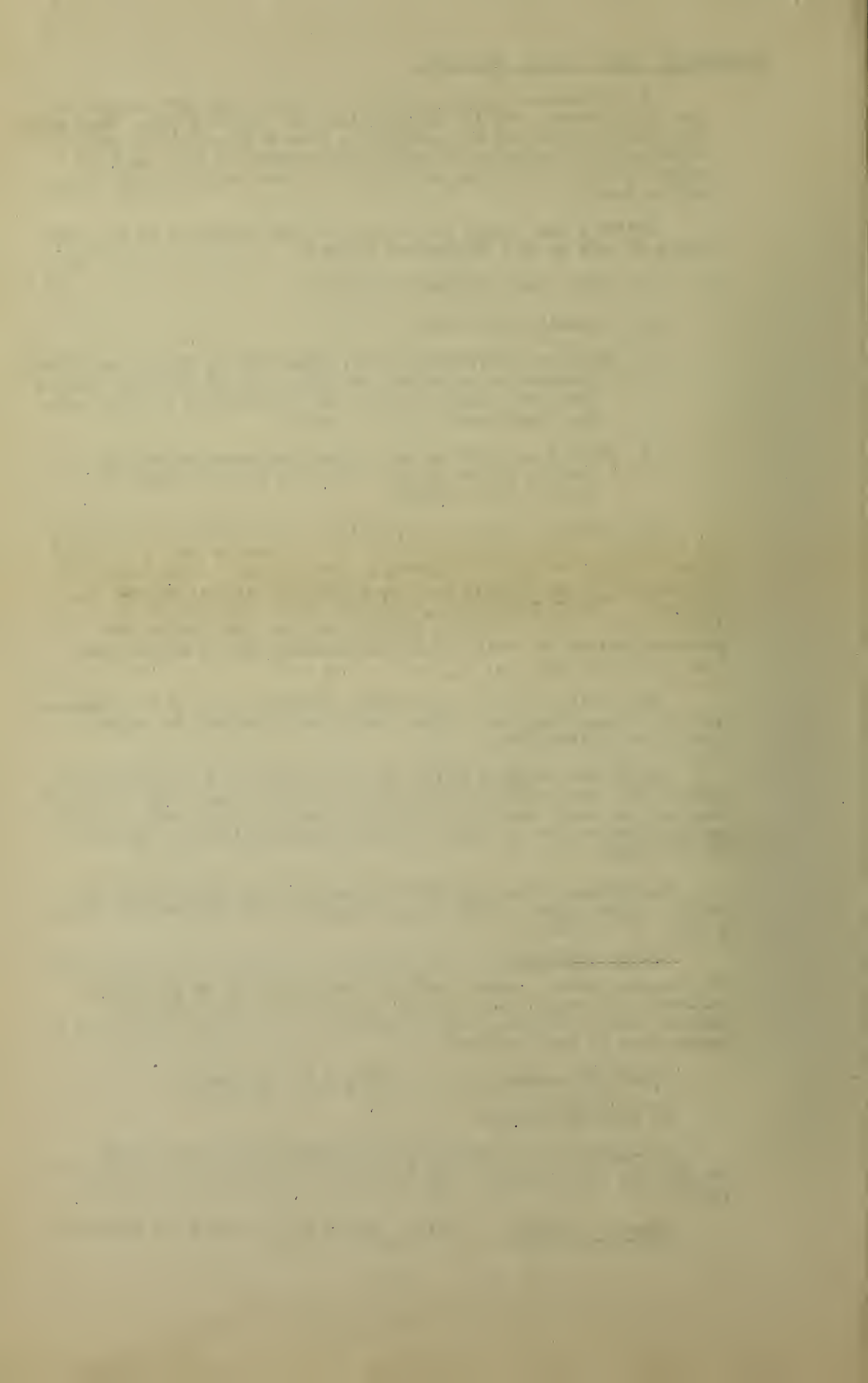
"I am directed by the Minister of Health to state that "he has had under consideration the report of Miss O'Brien "after her recent visit to the Kingswood Infant Welfare "Centre, and to express appreciation of the good work which is "being done at the Centre".

1,858 attendances are recorded in 42 weeks.

44 average weekly.

In respect of diseases particularly associated with childbirth and infancy, the following were notified during the year :

Puerperal fever: 1 case, which was treated at patient's



home, and recovered.

Ophthalmia neonatorum. 9 cases, 4 of which were removed to hospital, necessary treatment not being possible at home. In no case was there loss of sight, a tribute to the care taken to have the cases promptly dealt with, and to the skilful attention given by the nurses from the Hanham Road Nursing Home.

Measles: Not being a notifiable disease the number of cases is not available. There was no epidemic and no schools were closed on account of it. There were 2 deaths from measles registered.

Whooping Cough: No deaths from this disease were registered and no statistics are available to indicate its prevalence.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) STAFF. The Staff includes the Sanitary Inspector, Mr Glynn Warne, and his assistant.

Mr Warne's report is attached hereto.

(2) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

A Smallpox Hospital is available in the district, and can accommodate 6 patients.

For other infectious diseases hospital accommodation is available at Mangotsfield by arrangement with the Warmley Rural District Council - accommodation 4 beds.

(3) No Local Acts or Special Orders during the year.

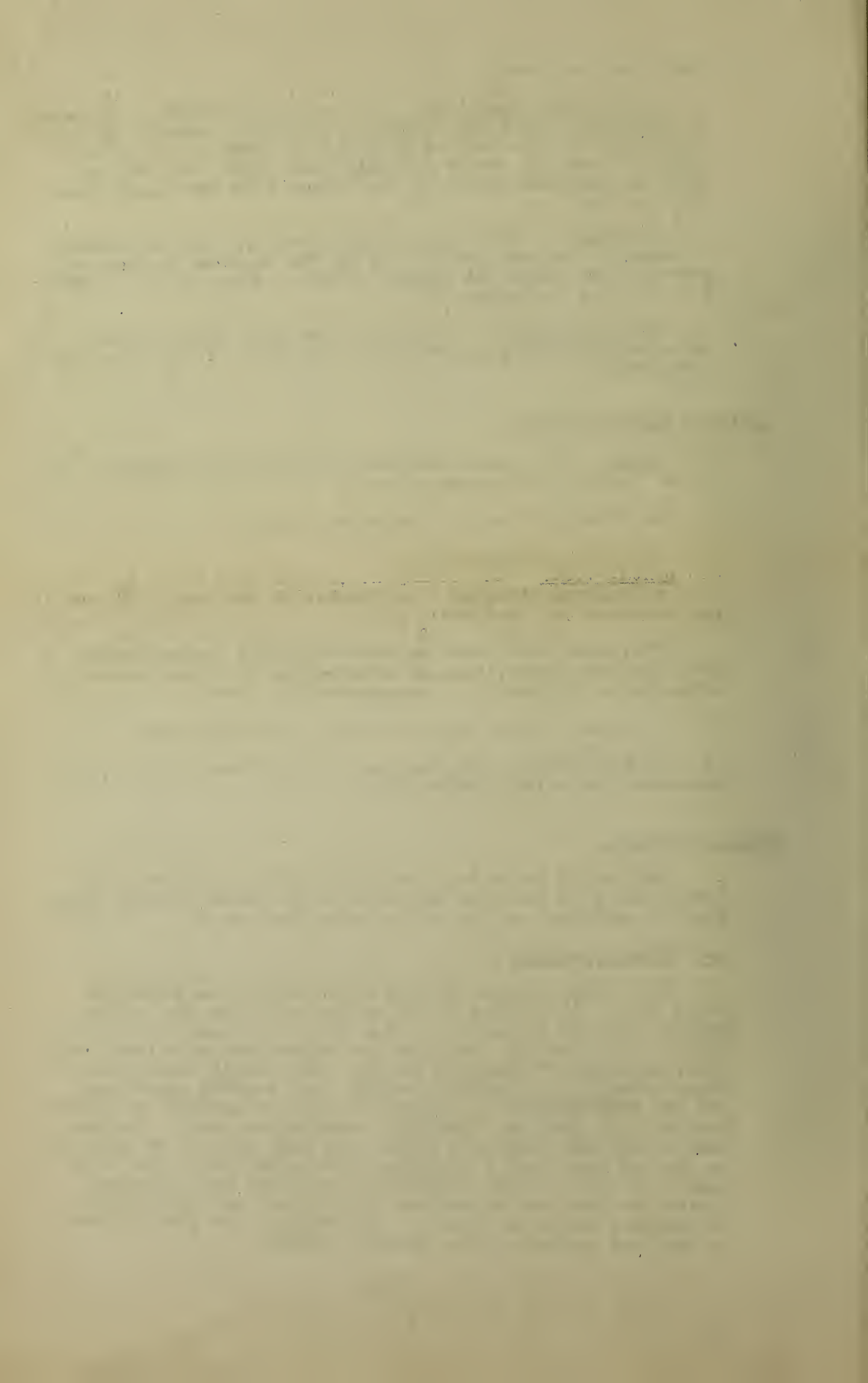
(4) Bacteriological and Chemical work is dealt with at the Laboratory of Bristol University.

HEALTH VISITING.

The Health Nurse was appointed early in January 1920. During the year her time has been fully and profitably occupied in carrying out the duties specified below.

(1) Infant Visiting.

The nurse receives within a few days of an infant's birth in the district a notification card from the County Medical Officer of Health. She visits the house after the midwife or nurse has completed her attendance on a maternity case, generally within the month. The health nurse then makes notes of the infant's weight, and general condition, and its surroundings. Advice is given on matters affecting health, e.g. feeding, clothing, ventilation, etc. In the case of healthy infants 4 visits are made in the 1st year, 2 in the 2nd year, and 1 each year thereafter until the child goes to school. When infants are delicate more frequent visits are made and advice and help given, and medical aid recommended where necessary. The mothers are also advised to take the infants to the Welfare Centre.



The total number of notification cards at January was 555, and in December 710. There were 28 deaths of infants in the year. The total visits to infants during the year was 1,522.

(2) School Work.

(a) Defective Children : In March and April 146 defective children were referred by the County M.O.H. to the Health Visitor. She made 294 visits to the children's homes and gave the necessary advice to the parents.

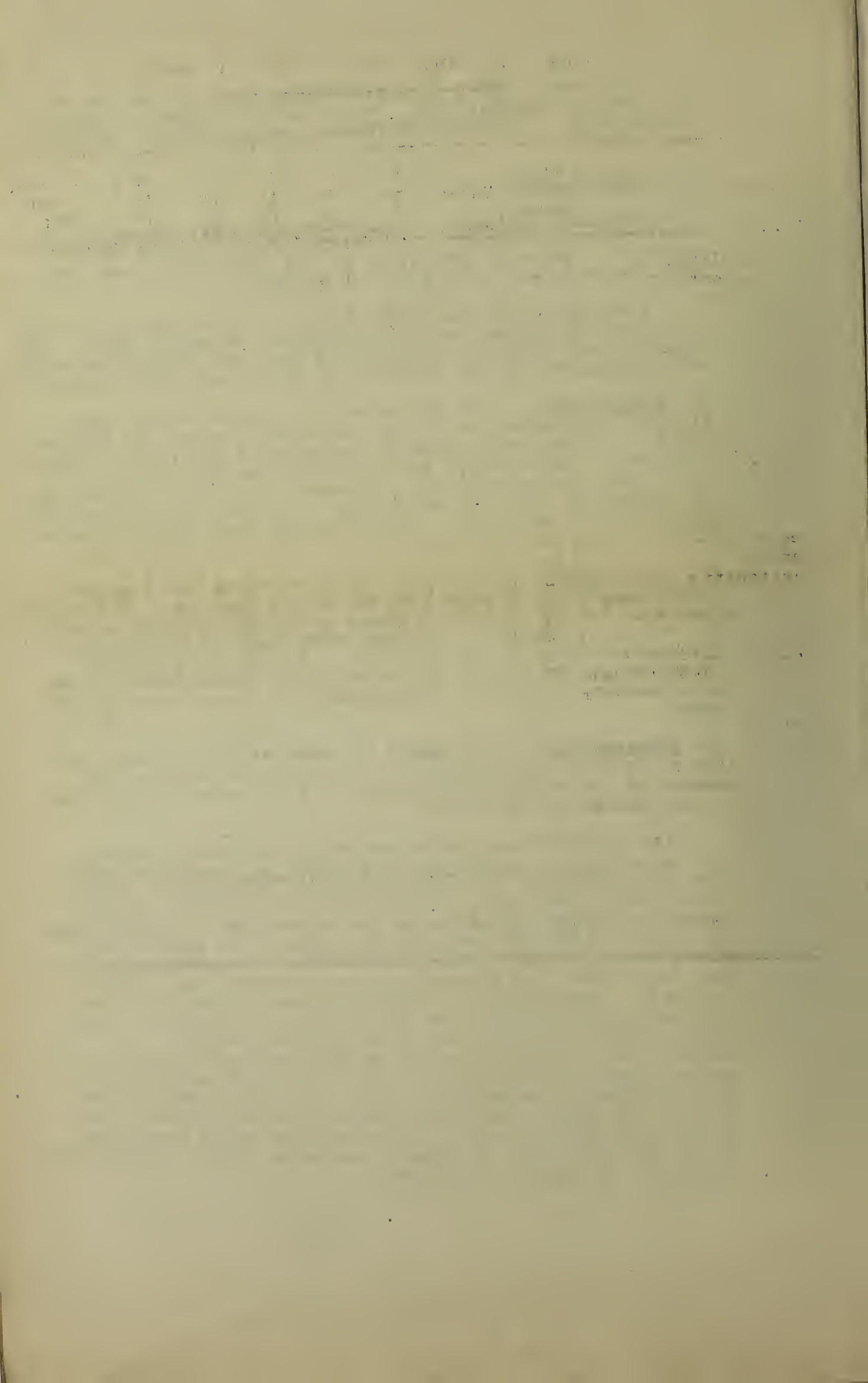
Assistance was also given by her at 16 inspections conducted by the School Medical Officer in December 1920. 300 children were examined, weighed and measured, attention being specially given to the condition of eyes, ears and throats.

(b) Pediculosis. The four schools in the district were visited for examination of the children's heads for pediculosis. 58 days were spent at the schools and 1,600 children examined. The clerical work involved the filling up of 1,086 cards and envelopes. Infected cases were followed up at the school till they were clean - as long as 3 months being necessary in some cases. There was one case where prosecution was made and the nurse was required to attend court.

(c) Dental work. The County M.O.H. referred 399 children requiring dental treatment to the health visitor. 421 visits were paid to the children's homes to obtain parental consent for dental treatment. 32 days were spent at the schools giving assistance to the dentist. In many cases parents voluntarily paid 6d. to aid in defraying the expenses of the anaesthetic for painless extraction. In some cases gas was given.

(d) Tuberculosis. The number of cases of this disease on the register at the beginning of the year was 96, and the number at the end of the year 111. There were 9 deaths and 3 removals during the year.

The health nurse visited serious cases once a month, also ex-soldiers, ex-sailors, and those in receipt of extra diet provided under the National Health Insurance. Other tuberculosis cases were visited once in 3 months. In all cases instruction was given on the importance of controlling the spread of the disease, and the means to be adopted for this purpose, namely, proper ventilation, cleanliness of home and person, and disinfection of utensils used by the patients. Handkerchiefs, sputum cups and flasks and disinfectants are supplied free by the District Council. The health nurse reports on each case after her visit. In certain cases, owing to lack of accommodation and means, it was impossible to enforce patients sleeping in separate bedrooms, or even separate beds. As a rule the instructions given by the health nurse were conscientiously carried out. During the year 680 visits to tuberculosis cases were made, and on four occasions assistance was given to the Tuberculosis Officer at the Warmley Dispensary.



CAUSE OF DEATH and AGES AT DEATH.

Name of Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 yrs.	5 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over.
Encephalitis } Lethargien }	1			1				
Diphtheria	1		1					
Measles	2	1	1					
Influenza	1			1				
Rheumatic Fever	1			1				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis }	10					6	4	
Other forms of Tuberculosis }	2	1	1					
Bronchitis	13	3				1		4
Pneumonia	11	4	1			3	2	1
Meningitis	2		1	1				
Other Respiratory Diseases }	1						1	
Heart Disease	17				1	2	3	11
Cancer	14						8	6
Peritonitis	2					1	1	
Infantile Diarrhoea	1	1						
Acute Laryngitis	1		1					
Nephritis	3						3	
Hepatic Cirrhosis	1					1		
Cerebral Haemorrhage	12					1	3	8
Congenital & Debility Diseases	1	1						
Violent Deaths	5				1	1	2	1
Ill-defined Diseases	15							15
Other defined Diseases }	5		1			1		3
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition	3					3		
Totals	125	16	7	4	2	21	27	49

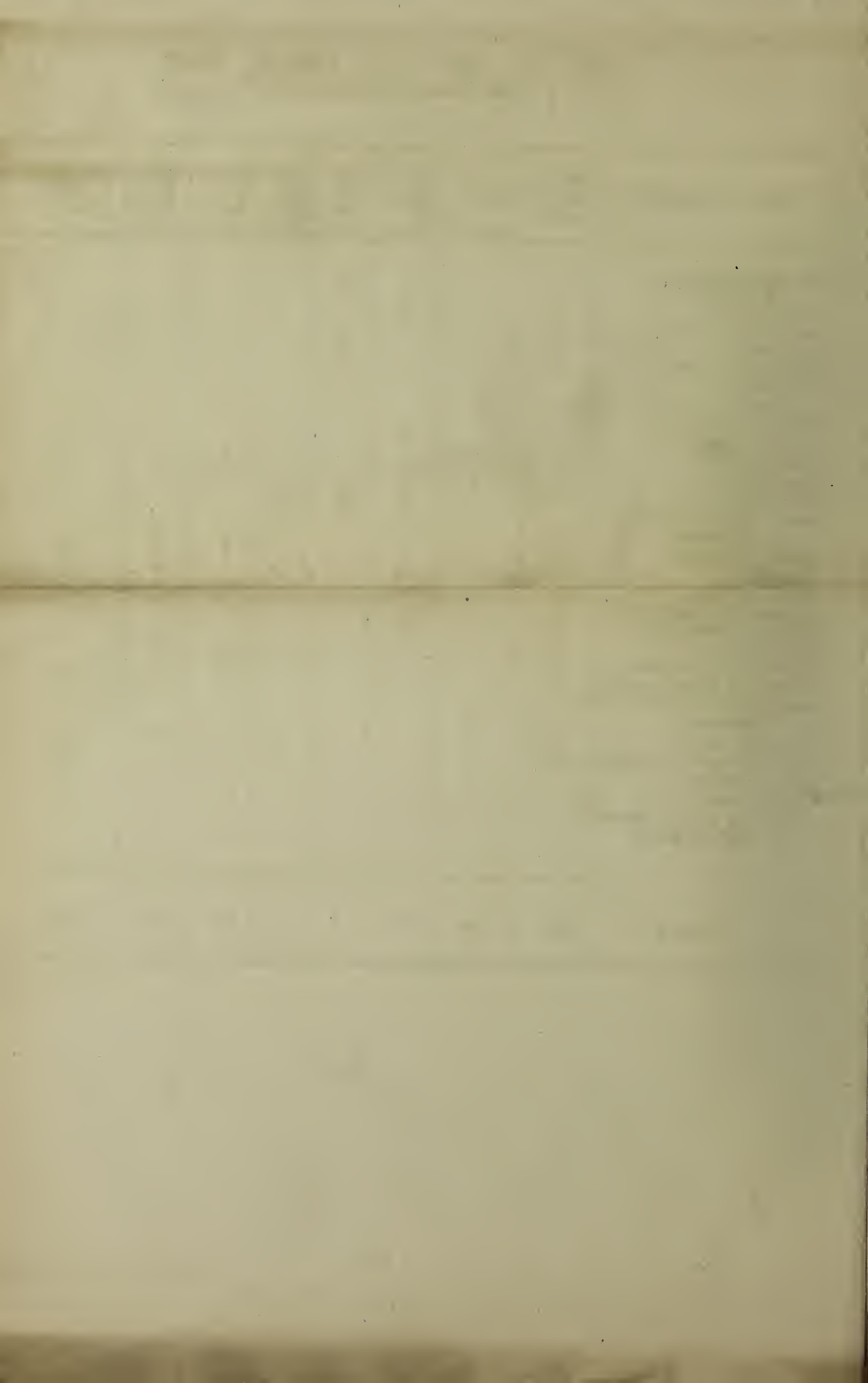


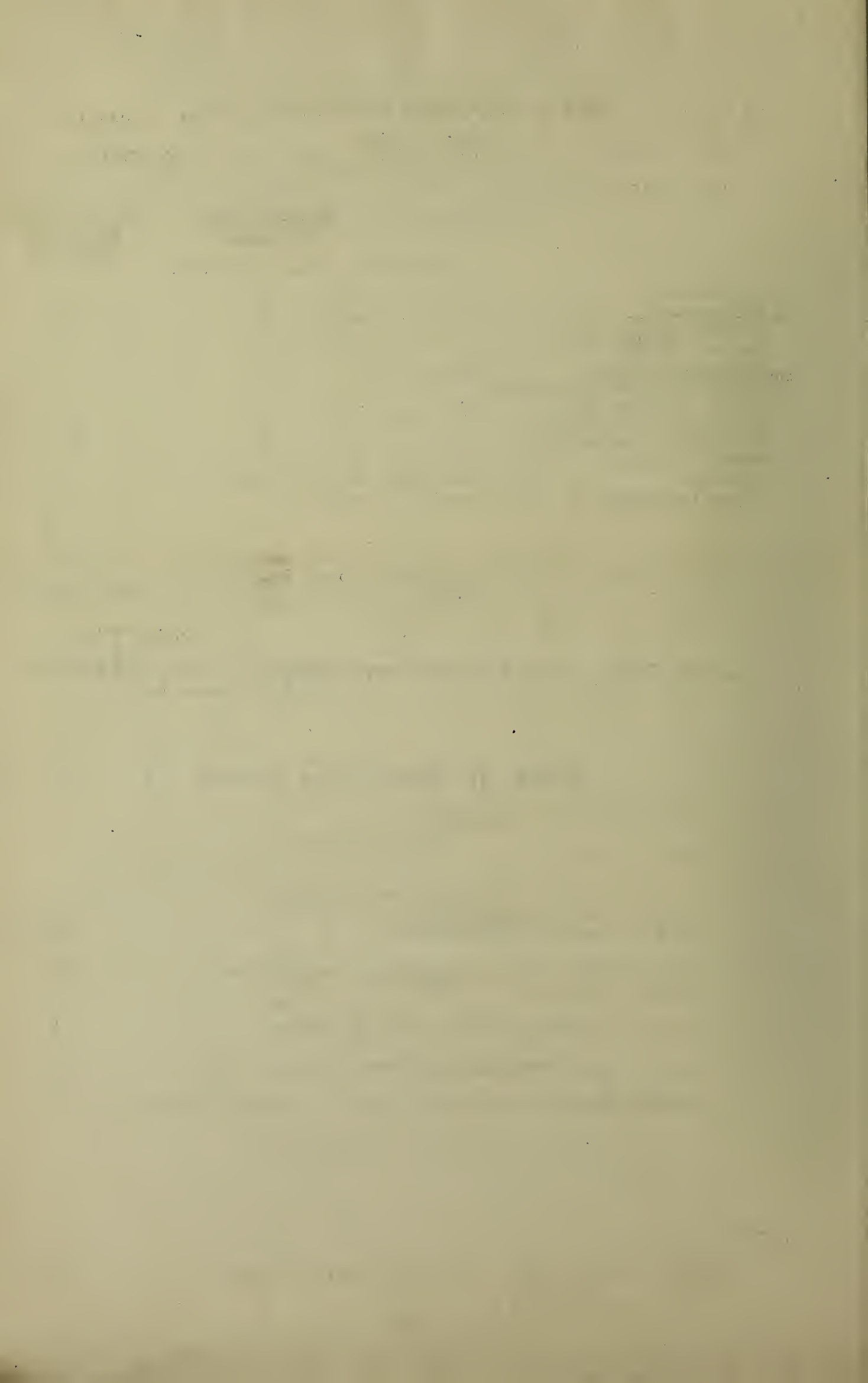
TABLE of INFECTIOUS DISEASES for the
YEAR 1920.

			<u>No. of Cases notified</u>	<u>No. of Cases moved to Hospital</u>
Diphtheria	...	...	5	1
Erysipelas	...	...	4	-
Scarlet Fever	...	...	19	7
Enteric Fever	...	...	-	-
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	9	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	16	11
Other forms of "	...	...	3	-
Measles	...	Not notifiable in this area.		
Other Diseases	...	...	-	-
TOTAL			<u>57</u>	<u>25</u>

DEATHS of INFANTS under One Year
of age.

Legitimate	16
Illegitimate	-
TOTAL	<u>16</u>

S. 30.1.20.



FORM which Medical Officers of Health in the County of Gloucester
are requested by the PUBLIC HEALTH and HOUSING COMMITTEE of
the COUNTY COUNCIL to fill up.

KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health: C. J. PERROTT.
Qualifications : L.R.C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector : H. GLYNN WARNE.

HOUSING.

Number of plans for new houses approved	2
Number of houses built	4
Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 - Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 :	
Who is the Inspecting Officer designated under Article ii.?	H. GLYNN WARNE.
What forms of records have been adopted?	
For use in inspecting?	Moore's Loose Leaf.
For permanent records?	do.
For presentation to the Council?	do.
Number of houses inspected	121
Number of houses with defects for which notices were necessary	72
Number of houses for which notices were served :	
Under Sec. 15, Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909	28
Number remedied	16
Under other sections of Public Health Acts	53
Number remedied	37
Number of houses unfit for habitation	6
Number made habitable without closing orders	5
Number of representations made to District Council	2
Number of cases of overcrowding reported	2
Number abated	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of new connections with public supply	4
--	---



SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE.

Number of houses newly connected with sewers	11
Number of notices served to empty "Privy Vaults"	4
Number of privy vaults abolished	11

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

What changes in the collection or disposal were made during 1920? The area of collection was extended.

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Inspected</u>	<u>Total No. of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>
Slaughter Houses	14	14	206
Bakehouses	26	26	191
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	29	29	272
Workshops	460	380	401
Residences of out-workers)			

GENERAL.

Number of complaints received	6
Number of nuisances reported to District Council :	
(1) Total	24
(2) Swine	-
Total number of nuisances abated	34
Total number of preliminary notices served	24
Total number of Statutory notices served	12

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

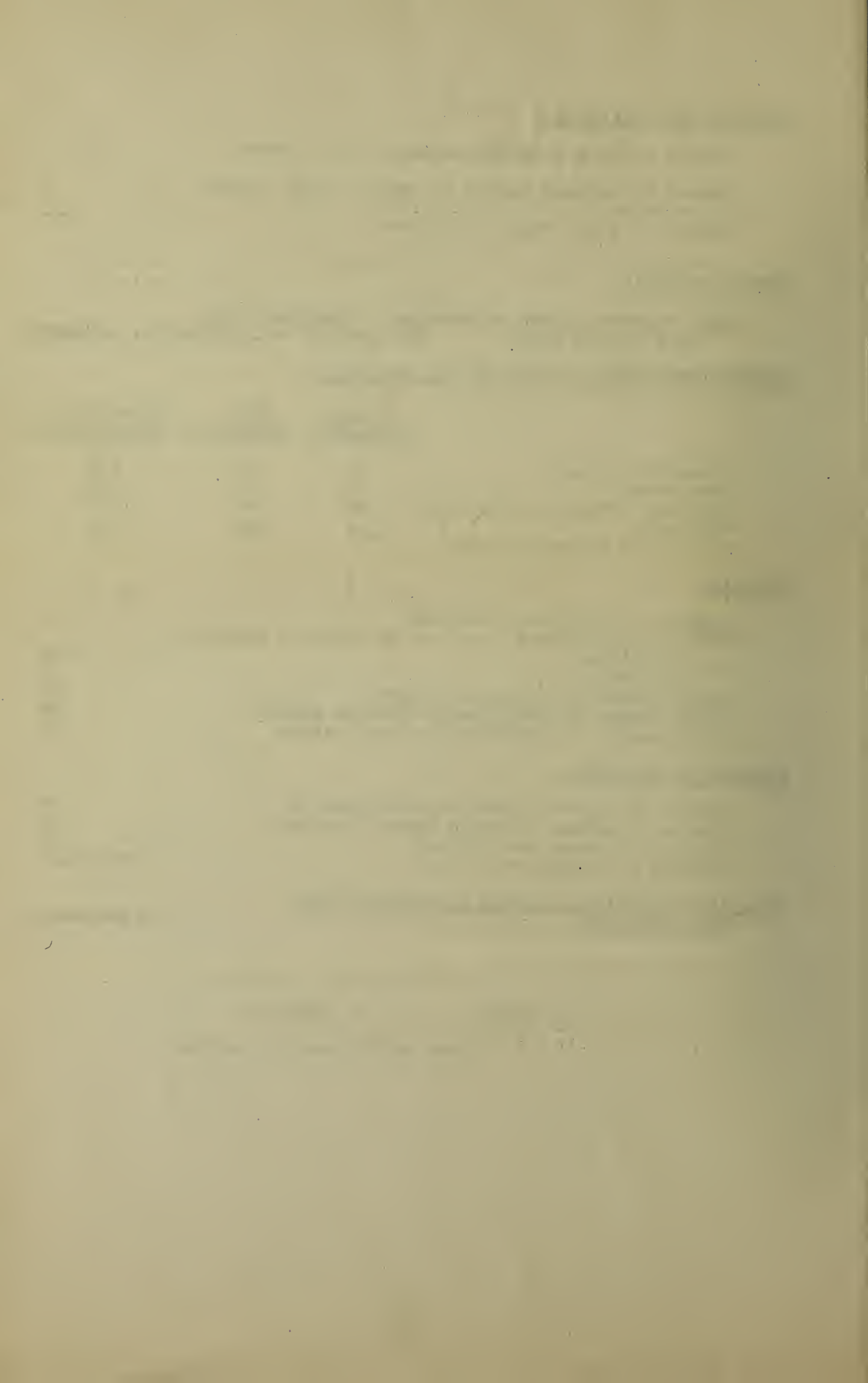
Number of cases visited and reported on	38
Number of houses in which cases occurred	36
Number of houses disinfected	34
Methods of disinfection used	Spraying.

WHAT ARE THE CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT?

A Mortuary.

(Signed) C. J. PERROTT.

Medical Officer of Health.



RAINFALL 1920.

Month.	Total depth in Inches.	Greatest fall in 24 hours		No. of days on which more than .01 fell.
		Inches	Date.	
January	4.20	1.39	10th	21
February	1.64	.53	10th	13
March	2.53	.56	14th	16
April	4.40	.70	9th	23
May	2.05	.47	1st	16
June	3.11	.84	12th	14
July	4.39	.79	23rd	22
August	1.59	.56	4th	10
September	1.40	.33	30th	8
October	2.58	.45	31st	10
November	1.82	.46	14th	10
December	3.07	.49	23rd	16
TOTAL	32.78			178

Average rainfall for last 34 years 32.96.

No. of houses in Kingswood District connected
with Company's main during 1920

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KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT of the INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES for the Year 1920.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1920.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year infectious diseases have been reported as follows :-

Diphtheria	5	A decrease	on 1919	of	4
Erysipelas	4	An increase	" "	"	2
Scarlet Fever	19	"	" "	"	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	"	" "	"	7
Tuberculosis	<u>19</u>				
	56				
	<u>=</u>				

Excluding measles, which is not now a notifiable disease, the increase in the cases of infectious disease is 12.

The cases removed to the hospital were :
Scarlet Fever 7: Diphtheria 1.

HOUSING and DRAINAGE. The number of houses inspected during the year was 121, and notices were required in 72 cases. The scarcity of skilled workers and the continued high cost of materials has made it difficult to get the necessary repairs executed, but there has been an improvement in this respect as compared with the year 1919.

The number of privy vaults abolished was 11, and the drainage in each case was connected to the sewers.

The arranging of an easement and the construction of a common drain by the owners of property in Hill Street has remedied a long-standing nuisance.

During the year plans were submitted for 2 houses and 4 were erected.

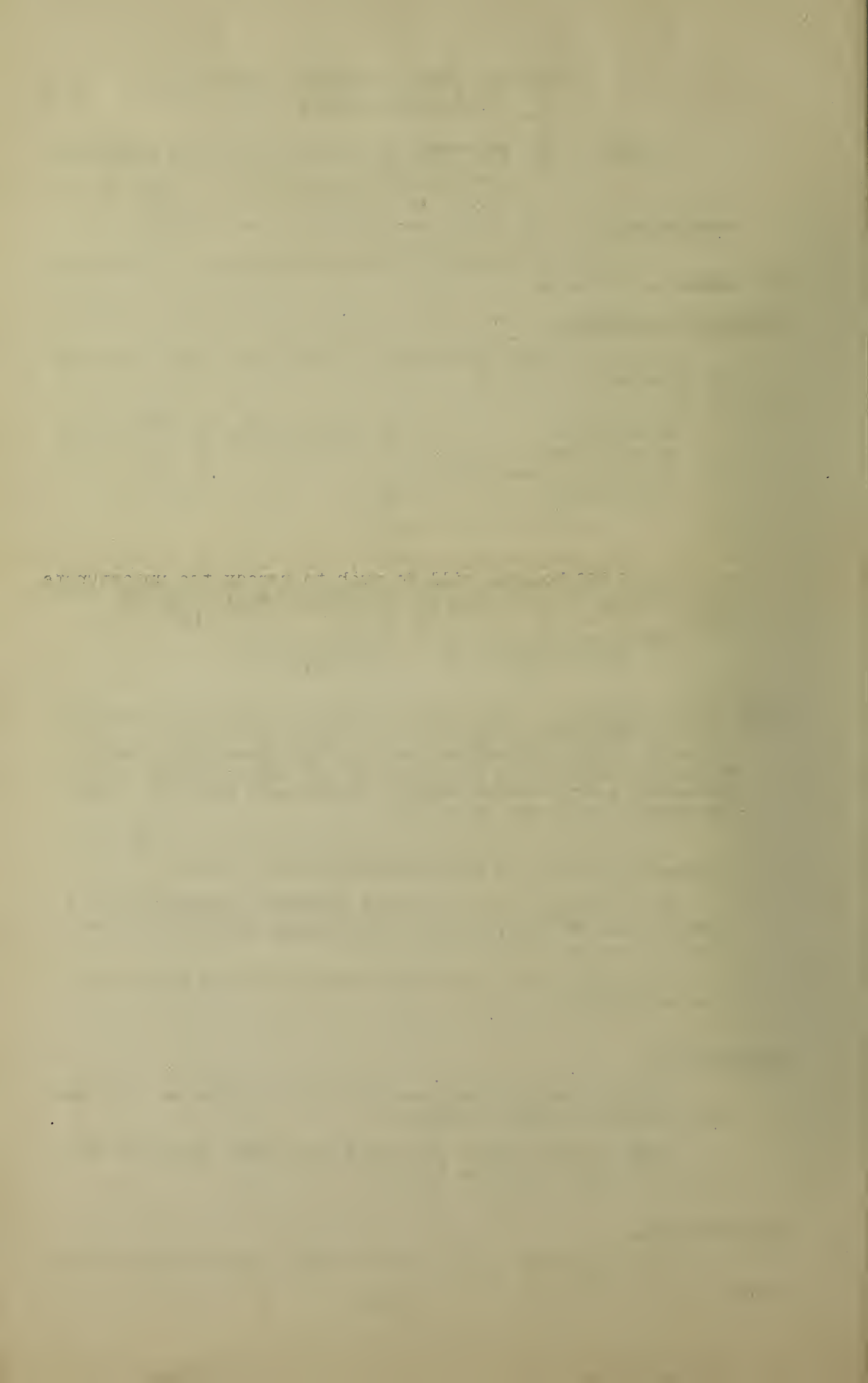
WATER SUPPLY.

Four new connections were made to the mains of the West Gloucestershire Water Company.

Only a small number of houses now obtain supplies from wells, springs, and mine levels.

MEAT and FOOD.

The slaughterhouses of the district are not constructed



in accordance with modern ideas of what these buildings should be, but they are kept clean and in good order.

The initial outlay and the cost of upkeep would probably be too great for small districts, such as this, but I think it is highly desirable that Public Slaughterhouses should be erected, and that it should be compulsory to slaughter all animals intended for human consumption at one of these establishments, under proper supervision.

WORKSHOPS and FACTORIES.

The Sanitary arrangements in the Factories and Workshops have been well kept as regards cleanliness.

OVERCROWDING.

There is a still further increase of overcrowding, although not to such an extent as might have been expected. There has also been an increase in the number of cases in which two families occupy one house. Many of these are young married couples who would gladly occupy homes of their own if any houses were available.

The Council's Housing Schemes, which provide for the erection of 200 houses, will do much to remedy the unfortunate state of affairs now existing, but this number is in my opinion only barely sufficient to meet the immediate needs of the district.

SCAVENGING.

The increase in the area of public scavenging has resulted in the surroundings of a number of houses becoming decidedly cleaner, to the very great advantage of the inhabitants, and undoubtedly to the public health generally.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GLYNN WARNE.

